

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 741  
By Dunn

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Elvyn Verone Davidson for his outstanding service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Elvyn Verone Davidson is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, born on October 6, 1923 in Long Island, New York, Dr. Davidson was raised by his Aunt in Harlem after the death of both his parents when he was just ten years old; and

WHEREAS, instilled with a passion to live a life of purpose by his teacher, the famous poet Countee Cullen, this life changing experience helped to produce the extraordinary man and physician we honor today; and

WHEREAS, a man of courage and resolve, Dr. Davidson served his country during World War II as a member of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division of the United States Army, formerly known as the Buffalo Soldiers, where he received the Purple Heart Combat Infantry Badge; and

WHEREAS, entering college after his military service, Dr. Davidson received his A.B. degree in 1949 from Lincoln University in Lincoln, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Davidson received his Doctor of Medicine degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville in 1953 and earned his surgical certification from New York University Post Graduate School in 1954-55; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Elvyn Davidson served his medical residency from 1953-58 at Harlem Hospital in New York during which time he provided medical care to legendary Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King who had been stabbed in Harlem; and

WHEREAS, in 1959 Dr. Davidson came back to Tennessee when he accepted the position of Instructor in Surgery at the University of Tennessee Memorial Research Hospital in Knoxville; in 1970 he was named Assistant Professor of Surgery, a post he held until 1991; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded for his expertise and his professionalism, Dr. Davidson was also the Chief of Surgery at East Tennessee Baptist Hospital from 1974 to 1978 and has been a Fellow of The American Society of Abdominal Surgery since 1968; and

WHEREAS, Elvyn V. Davidson is truly a leader in the medical profession as evidenced by his membership in the Knoxville Academy of Medicine, the Tennessee Medical Association, the American Medical Association, the National Medical Association, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Volunteer State Medical Society, Continuing Surgical Society, the Board of Directors of several Home Health Care Agencies and as a former board member of the Helen Ross McNabb Center; and

WHEREAS, an active and important part of his community, Dr. Davidson is a member of numerous civic organizations, including the YMCA, Urban League, Jack & Jill of America, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Knights of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Davidson has also given of his time and talents as a member of the Board of Directors of the Sertoma Center and the Advisory Board of the John T. O'Connor Center where he serves as their representative to the Office on Aging; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who always answered the call to assist children, Dr. Elvyn Davidson has been a tireless clinic volunteer and supporter for many years at St. Joseph School; he has also regularly kept the gate at Knoxville Catholic High School football games; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Davidson is a devoted member of Immaculate Conception Church where he serves as an usher and a member of the Evangelization Committee; he is also a member of the Knoxville Catholic Diocesan Evangelization Committee; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades Dr. Davidson is listed in *Who's Who In the South and Southeast*, *Who's Who Among Black Americans* and *A Century of Black Americans*; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Dr. Elvyn Davidson was fortunate to share both love and companionship with his beloved late wife, Esther M. Johnson, R.N., which

joyous union produced three treasured children, Pamela E. Chesney, Evelyne M. Davidson, M.D., and Elvyn V. Davidson II; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Elvyn V. Davidson has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, his community and the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Dr. Elvyn Verone Davidson for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.